Letters to the Editor

Fearless Force

It was so gratifying to read that, at long last, we have a police force operating in a fearless fashion down at Oak Bay. Doubtless we can expect early arrests of other offenders and soon have some show of law and order in this country for a change.

I noticed the police have rounded up and fined those wicked chinchilla rabbit owners. Time enough for the juvenile delinquents and burglars later.

WILF FREEMAN.

R.R. 1, Victoria, B.C.

Policy of Despair

As time goes on it seems that more and more people are looking askance at the present setup of civil defence.

A pleasant little jaunt to Sooke under the guise of evacuation, lunch, and home again, is a very different proposition from terrified people assailed from above by something that is not even visible but which is "raining down a ghastly dew." Also a good southerly breeze would bring the deadly fumes to Sooke and places even farther afield even if bombs were not actually falling in the immediate vicinity.

When those who are responsible for the civil defence department begin to look to the possibility of underground shelters and finding out more about them more people will lose their apathy and take an interest in what is being done. Now it seems to be a policy of despair, with a constant waste of thousands of dollars on a scheme that even the heads of the organization cannot really believe is or would be effective.

(Mrs.) LILIAN F. HEYWOOD.

2938 Tudor Road.

Wayside Menageries

We read with distress that yet another zoo has been set up on Vancouver Island.

New Canadians have brought with them to Canada many and varied ideas which have enriched our Canadian culture. However, they have brought with them one notably regrettable type of enterprise previously unknown in British Columbia.

We refer to the roadside menagerie, which the provincial government has unfortunately seen fit to legalize under the outdated notion that these have an educational value which offsets the cruelty and injustice involved.

Moreover, from the standpoint of first-class tourist attraction these wayside menageries are now a detriment rather than an asset to any community and appeal only to the minority, as more and more people are becoming conscious of the need for kindness and consideration to all creatures.

V. E. COWIE.

3283 Henderson Road.

Envious Anger

The local press has recently carried statements from civic officials and letters from angry taxpayers, criticizing recent minor wage increases granted to the employees of the city of Victoria.

Envy is an unlively but very human sentiment, and we can understand the envy with which some members of the unproductive sector of the community regard any rise in incomes of the working sector, but envy is always prone to exaggerate.

Between 1952 and 1958, while wage rates for office employees in the Victoria area rose by an average of 21.89 per cent in comparable jobs (or by about 19 per cent over the whole field of office employment), the average wage paid to employees on the inside staff of the city hall actually declined by about .4 per cent. The recent 8 per cent increase awarded to these employees by a conciliation board hardly justifies the envious anger of some of your correspondents.

While holding the line heroically on the wages paid to its servants, the taxpayers of Victoria have voted to increase expeditures, on the amenities and services provided to themselves through the city, by some 34 per cent, and have paid off 25 per cent of the city's per capita debt. Both these features of the city budget are commendable, and both indicate a willingness on the part of the taxpayers to take advantage of rising standards of living for themselves.

It would seem that the current revenues of the city have been managed with reasonable economy, and that this economy has been particularly evident in the wage policy followed by the city.

C. S. BURCHILL.

311 Milburn Drive.

Challenge Met

I should like to comment upon a play seen in the recent Schools Drama Festival: a scene from "The Barretts of Wimpole Street." I was anxious to see this as I thought it presented a great challenge to young actors.

The scene was presented with dignity and simplicity and the atmosphere was well sustained. The lines were intelligently spoken, with life and meaning behind the words, and the voices were pleasantly modulated and unstrained. It was directed with skill and sensibility, and I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the director, and whom I do not know, upon the high standard reached.

Suite 11, 906 McClure. MARION J. ORD.

College Obstacle Gone

The purchase by Victoria College of an extra 119 acres of federal government-owned land north of Cedar Hill Cross Road has removed one of the main obstacles toward the development of a full-fledged university in Victoria.

The Victoria College offer for the land is reported to have been accepted by the federal government, and only the formalities of transferring the title into the name of the provincial government remains to be completed.

The land in question has been eyed by those interested in the formation of a university in Victoria ever since Defence Minister G. R. Pearkes said nearly two years ago that Gordon Head military camp was likely to be declared surplus to requirements.

Even when the college increased its property around the present campus by the acquisition of 39 acres from the Hudson's Bay Company, the Victoria Chamber of Commerce university sub-committee urged that this land was not sufficient.

They suggested that the Gordon Head camp and the department of transport land on the other side of Finnerty Road should be acquired as well.

Victoria College chairman Judge Clearihue was then advocating a long-term plan that envisaged the ultimate purchase of the Uplands Golf Club.

This ran into strong opposition from members of the golf club, town planning officials and others interested in preserving the existing green belts in the Victoria area.

Victoria College then turned towards the Gordon Head property and representations for the purchase of the land were made by the College Council and the Chamber of Commerce to the defence minister.

An initial offer of $53,000 was made and later substituted by one of $100,000.

Toronto Project 123 Storeys High

TORONTO (CP)—A 123-storey luxury apartment-hotel which would be among the tallest buildings in the world may be built in Toronto, at a cost of $318,000,000, by Warner Holdings Limited, a Calgary firm.

The firm Tuesday made a written offer of $50,000 for a 99-year lease on a 5½-acre site.

Old Men's Home Closing?

Mountain View Home, Victoria's home for aged men, may be closed next fall.

City welfare administrator William Hooson is expected to recommend to city council today that the old, brick-built home at Cadboro Bay Road and Bowker be gradually emptied in the next six months, and that the property then be sold and the money placed in a special fund to be used to help in provision of better accommodation, whether publicly or privately.

Both the Salvation Army and Gorge Road Hospital are planning to build such accommodation.

Health and welfare committee of council asked him for a recommendation during consideration of welfare estimates, after he said the city could save most of the $16,700 net cost of operating the home by placing the aged men in private institutions.

City comptroller Dennis Young said estimated revenue from sale of the property was between $30,000 and $40,000.

The property, mostly high and rocky, would be subdivided and sold as residential lots.

Ald. D. J. Proudfoot said the Salvation Army was planning a home for aged persons which might cost around $900,000, and Ald. Mrs. Lily Wilson said Gorge Road Hospital was also planning expansion.

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Easter Ceremonies To Commence Today

Holy Week ceremonies will begin at 9.30 a.m. today in St. Andrew's Cathedral.

The service will open four days of worship ending with the Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7.30 p.m. Sunday.

Services include:

Holy Thursday — Solemn Pontifical Mass by Most Rev. James M. Hill, Bishop of Victoria, and blessing of the Holy Oils by the Bishop at 9.30 a.m.; Low Mass and holy communion, 5.15 p.m.; Solemn High Mass, holy communion and procession to the Altar of Repose, 7.30 p.m.

Good Friday—Afternoon services at 3 p.m. will include readings from the Holy Scripture, chanting of the Passion of Our Lord from St. John's Gospel, veneration of the Holy Cross and holy communion; at 7.30 p.m. public Way of the Cross will be conducted.

Holy Saturday—Beginning of Easter vigil ceremonies at 10.30 p.m. followed by Solemn High Mass at midnight.

Easter Sunday — Low Masses at 7, 8, 9 and 10 a.m., and Pontifical High Mass at 11 a.m.

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